

## Aborichthys (Cypriniformes: Balitoridae): a viewpoint on new species

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**A**borichthys is a genus of stone loaches found in streams of India. The genus Aborichthys was described in 1913 from specimens in streams/rivers of Abor hills area of northeastern India during the Abor expedition 43. There are currently eight recognized species in this genus. *Aborichthys kemp* is a hill stream fish. Demersal environment with freshwater is the main habitat of this species. It is also mostly found in streams with pebbly bottoms; a mountain stream specialist requiring clear oxygenated water. There is continuing disturbance in its habitat due to siltation, change in the course of streams and human intervention. It is distinguished from its congeners by the following characters: anus closer to tip of snout than to caudal fin base; barbels much longer than eye diameter; black bars narrower than interspaces. The type species, *Aborichthys kemp*, is diagnosed based on its incomplete lateral line, terminating anterior to a vertical from the pelvic fin insertion, and the position of vent being equidistant between the post orbit and the base of the caudal fin. The mouth structure of *Aborichthys kemp* is semicircular, lips moderately fleshy, and deeply crumpled in two rows; the upper and lower lips are interrupted medially; the lower lip has two fleshy knobs on each side; the dentiform process is well developed; barbels are short, subequal with thread like; and the maxillary extends perpendicular to the middle of the eye.

### RESOURCE

1. Arunachalam Muthukumarasamy, Raja Manickam, Malaïammal Punniyam, Richard L Mayden. New species of Aborichthys (Cypriniformes: Balitoridae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Species*, 2014, 7(18), 33-47